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LETTER DATED 13 JANUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GEORGIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit to you a text of the communiqué on the second round of negotiations concerning the situation in Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia, held at Geneva from 11 to 13 January 1994.

I also request that you convene a meeting of the Security Council in order to discuss the question of dispatching United Nations peace-keeping forces to the region and other provisions mentioned in the document.

I would be grateful if this letter and its enclosure were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Peter CHKHEIDZE
Permanent Representative
Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary

Annex

Communiqué on the second round of negotiations between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in Geneva

The second round of negotiations on a comprehensive settlement of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict took place from 11 to 13 January 1994 in Geneva under the aegis of the United Nations with the facilitation of the Russian Federation and with the participation of a representative of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and a representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

The negotiations were held in accordance with Security Council resolutions 849 (1993) of 9 July 1993, 854 (1993) of 6 August 1993, 858 (1993) of 24 August 1993, 876 (1993) of 19 October 1993, 881 (1993) of 4 November 1993 and 892 (1993) of 22 December 1993.

It was noted that the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding of 1 December 1993 are, for the most part, being implemented.

An exchange of prisoners has taken place on the principle of "all for all".

Representatives of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees have undertaken a first preparatory visit with a view to examining the feasibility of the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons to their places of permanent residence.

There has been an increase in the number of international observers in the conflict zone.

On 15 and 16 December 1993 in Moscow a meeting took place of the group of experts consisting of representatives of the parties to the conflict, the United Nations, the Russian Federation and an observer of the CSCE to prepare recommendations on the political status of Abkhazia.

At the same time it was noted that hostilities took place in individual areas of the zone of conflict carried out by uncontrolled armed groups, as a result of which part of the population experienced new privations.

Work to find the missing and the dead has not yet begun.

During the course of the second round of negotiations in Geneva the parties emphasized the need to continue efforts for the early achievement of a comprehensive settlement of the conflict.

1. The parties reaffirmed their commitment not to use force or the threat of force against each other.

2. The parties agreed that the establishment of favourable conditions for further progress towards a political settlement and the practical implementation of agreements will be promoted by the deployment of a full-scale peace-keeping

operation in Abkhazia. They have appealed to the Security Council at its forthcoming consideration of the activities of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for an appropriate expansion of its mandate, inter alia, to entrust it with control of the non-resumption of hostilities in the zone of conflict. The parties continued to favour the deployment in the conflict zone of United Nations peace-keeping forces or other forces authorized by the United Nations. They expressed their mutual consent to the use of a Russian military contingent as part of such forces.

Within five days after deployment in the zone of conflict, in accordance with a decision of the Security Council, of an additional number of international observers and following the arrival of peace-keeping forces, the parties shall carry out the withdrawal of all armed units, with their weapons and military equipment, from the Inguri river and other possible lines of active confrontation in the conflict zone to a distance to be determined by the officers commanding the peace-keeping forces and UNOMIG, with the agreement of the parties. Simultaneously, international observers and peace-keeping forces will enter the areas thus formed.

There shall be complete disarmament and withdrawal of all kinds of volunteer units and individuals participating in the conflict. Inspections by international observers are permitted at crossing points on the Psou river.

The parties appeal to the Security Council for an intensification of the international civilian presence in the conflict zone, and for this purpose it would be necessary to deploy appropriate civilian experts who will assist in resolving the problems of refugees and other humanitarian issues.

3. In the view of the parties a resolution of the problems of a settlement would be promoted by the establishment of a special voluntary fund under the aegis of the United Nations.

4. The parties will continue to work out a quadripartite agreement on the voluntary return and repatriation to Abkhazia of refugees and displaced persons.

The parties have agreed to establish a special commission on refugees consisting of the parties, the United Nations and the Russian Federation which will begin work on 25 January 1994.

The parties agreed to begin on 10 February 1994 the implementation of the phased process of the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia, and as a first step to the Gali region. The parties will take necessary measures to ensure the safety of refugees, displaced persons and personnel involved in this operation. The Abkhaz side has the primary responsibility for the reception and security of the refugees and also of the above-mentioned personnel. Moreover, the parties are requesting the United Nations and the Russian Federation to render them assistance in creating a safe environment conducive to the return of refugees and displaced persons.

The parties are counting on effective assistance from UNHCR and, inter alia, on the commencement as soon as possible of operations in the zone of conflict by an interim division of UNHCR.

5. The parties recognize that the primary objective is a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict and that all efforts are contributions to its achievement. They agreed to continue discussion of the problem of the political status of Abkhazia taking into account mutual interests. The next meeting of experts on this issue will take place in Moscow beginning on 8 February 1994. Their report will be considered at the next meeting of the parties and will be sent to the United Nations and the CSCE.

The United Nations, the CSCE and the Russian Federation call upon the parties to proceed from the need to observe the territorial integrity of Georgia and fully to ensure the interests of the entire multinational population of Abkhazia, these being the fundamental principles of a comprehensive settlement.

6. The parties expressed their interest in the establishment no later than 15 February of an international commission to assist in economic recovery in Abkhazia with the participation of international and national organizations. Among its highest priorities must be the restoration of vital facilities, transport, communications, airports, bridges and tunnels.

7. The parties to the negotiations agreed to hold their next meeting on 22 February 1994 in Moscow or Geneva.

For the Georgian side:	For the Abkhaz side:
(Signed)	(Signed)
J. IOSELIANI	S. JINJOLIA

In the presence of:

From the United Nations:	From the Russian Federation:	From the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe:
(Signed)	(Signed)	(Signed)
E. BRUNNER	B. PASTUKHOV	V. MANNO